



E-Legislative Update

March 29, 2010

We are in the third week of special session. In this stage of the legislative process, the House and Senate continue to negotiate a final supplemental budget.

You can [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.



The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focus on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community.

Week Two Highlights of Special Session:

Negotiating a final supplemental budget: Points of contention include level of revenue to be raised and ending fund balance. A major point of disagreement is whether the final revenue package should include a sales tax. The House opposes a sales tax due to its regressive nature and some members contend that public opinion polls show a high risk of repeal by ballot this November. The Senate proposes the highest level of expenditure at 900 million, which still requires cuts to various programs. The total amount of available federal funding assistance to states such as Washington is unknown at this time.

Major revenue generating alternatives to the sales tax currently being debated in the legislature include repealing the sales tax exemption on custom software, repealing a Business and Occupation tax exemption for first mortgages, repealing the sales tax exemption on gum and candy, and repealing the sales tax exemption on out of state residents.

Federal Health Reform: Two bills that embody Federal Health Reform passed this week. On Tuesday, March 23rd, President Obama signed H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Now that the Senate passed H.R. 4872, The Health Care & Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010, the President will also sign that bill into law soon.

More information on the reform bill, including a helpful three page summary can be found by clicking [here](#).

Attorney General Rob McKenna signed onto a lawsuit to block health reform, along with Attorney Generals from ten other states. Governor Gregoire spoke out against McKenna's action in a press conference on March 22nd.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- The House passed [E2SHB 2782](#) concerning the security lifeline act to reform General Assistance Unemployable, a program meant to provide short-term assistance to those who are disabled and cannot work.
- The Senate created a joint concurrent resolution [SCR 8409](#) that forms a joint select committee on health reform implementation relating to the passing of the national federal health reform.

Highlights of legislative discussion on the **BUDGET and REVENUE** include:

- The Senate voted on [ESSB 6143](#), a bill relating to revenue and taxation. This bill would institute a conference committee on the revenue package. If the House agrees to go into conference, Senate and House members will meet to work on a revenue package together for an up or down vote without amendments on their respective floors.

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on events of interest during this special session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview of a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

To find out more information on bills signed by the Governor, [click here](#).

Information is current as of: **March 28, 2010.**

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).